

NEWS

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The Department of Workforce Development announces federal grants to train hospital associates in Indianapolis and Kokomo

Frank O'Bannon, Governor
Alan D. Degner, Commissioner

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The Indiana Department of Workforce Development announced \$109,500 in federal grants to train area hospital associates for high-wage, high-demand, high-skill jobs in life sciences.

Governor Frank O'Bannon praised the grant: "This project addresses the critical need for workers in the life sciences," he said. "Awarding these types of grants helps provide lifelong learning opportunities to the valuable health care workers in central Indiana, and moves us closer to our vision of a new economy."

This Advance Indiana grant is one of eight similar grants, totaling more than \$1.2 million, that have been awarded to train healthcare workers throughout the state. The grant will help provide certifications for 57 associates of St. Vincent's and St. Joseph's hospitals in the Indianapolis and Kokomo areas. Targeted degrees include radiological technologists, registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and respiratory therapists.

"Especially now, this type of training is making a significant difference in the lives of Hoosier families," said Alan Degner, Commissioner of the Department of Workforce Development. "By providing career ladders through these grants, workers can expand their skills and achieve their employment goals."

Like the rest of the nation, Indiana is experiencing a critical shortage of qualified support staff for its medical facilities. Demand for skilled workers in this field continues to outpace the rate at which providers can hire and train employees. Graduates of this initiative will be able to immediately fill vacant positions.

This Regional Skills Alliance grant is part of the Skills 2016 Initiative and is awarded to companies that coordinate their training activities for mutual benefit. Matching funds of \$249,500 are being contributed by the hospitals and will help pay the cost of tuition, books and supplies for the two-year degrees. The Indianapolis Private Industry Council (IPIC) will act as fiscal agent for the funds. For more information please visit the Skills 2016 web site at www.in.gov/skills2016.